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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

Memorandum



THE NORTH VIETNAMESE CRISIS

Information as of 1300
7 AUGUST 1964

PREPARED FOR THE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
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I. CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS

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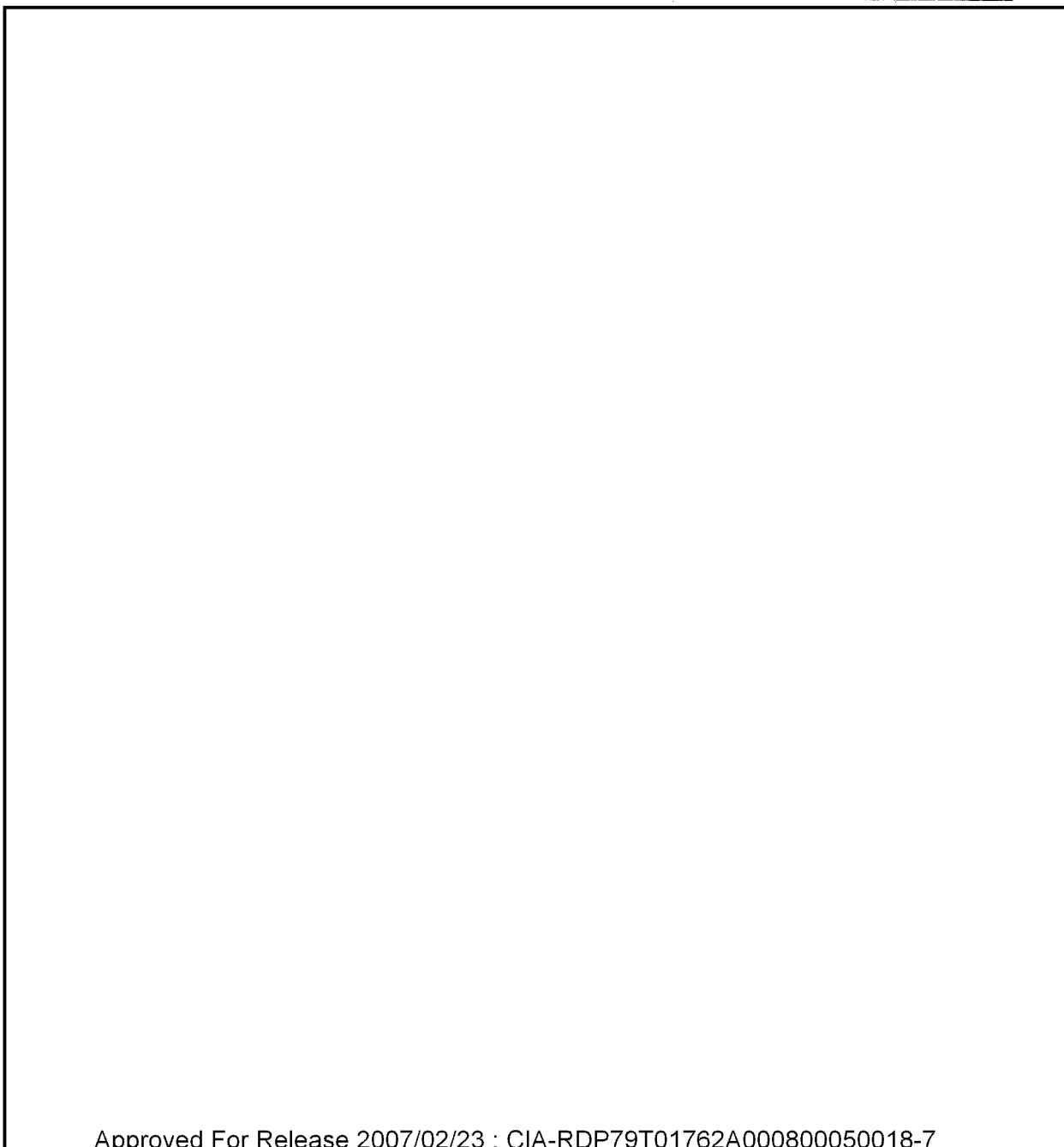
7 August 1964

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

MEMORANDUM: The North Vietnamese Situation

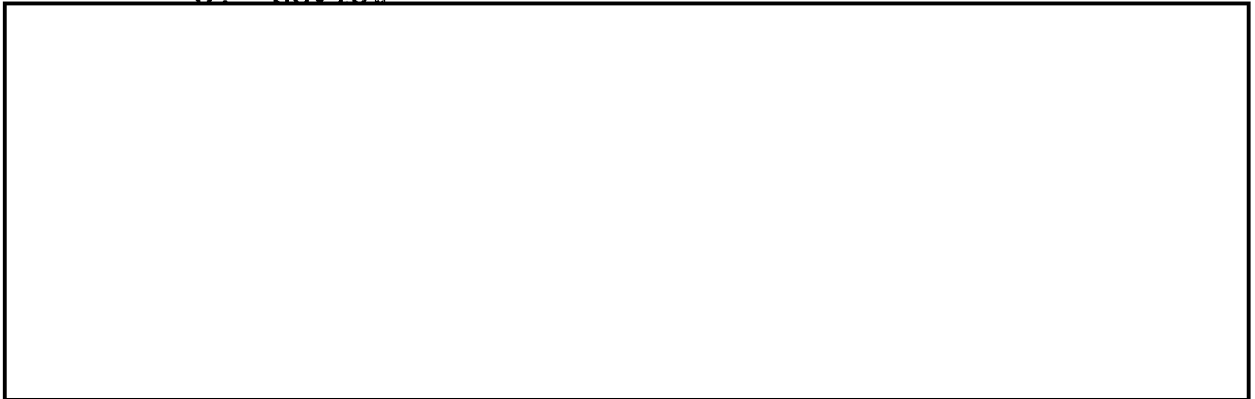
I. CURRENT SITUATION AS OF 1300, 7 AUGUST 1964

A. North Vietnamese Communist Military Activity



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C. Soviet



D. US

1. Maddox and Turner Joy resumed their De Soto patrol this morning. The ships will proceed from a point east of Vinh to an area northeast of Dong Hoi before retiring to the east this evening. On 8 August, the ships will continue southward from the Dong Hoi area to about the 17th parallel, where the operation will be terminated.



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3. The deployment of US forces to the West Pacific area continues. 33 of the 36 B-57's ordered into South Vietnam are in place. Three of the B-57's ordered into South Vietnam are in place. Three of the B-57's apparently were involved in accidents en route. 6 RF-101's have now joined the squadron of 12 F-102's that arrived in South Vietnam yesterday. 10 of the 18 F-100's deploying to Thailand are now in place, and eight are holding over at Danang. 18 F-105's destined for Thailand are holding at Clark due to adverse weather. A special landing force of 1,800 marines and 24 helicopters aboard the carrier Valley Forge is now in position off Danang.

4. Typhoon Ida, which passed over the northern tip of Luzon on 6 August, is crossing the South China Sea and is expected to hit the coast just north of Hainan Island at 082400Z. Maximum winds--80 knots over Luzon--were expected to increase to 120 knots over open seas. Bad weather associated with this typhoon may hamper naval and air operations in the Gulf of Tonkin in two or three days.



II. OTHER COMMUNIST REACTION

1. Moscow's reaction to events in the Gulf of Tonkin continues to be cautious. There still has been no official Soviet Government statement and the Soviet representatives at the UN and the Geneva Disarmament talks have not gone to extremes in condemning the US air strikes against North Vietnam.

2. The long People's Daily editorial on 7 August is designed primarily to buttress the public case against US "aggression" which Peiping is pressing in an attempt to arouse international opinion against the US. Like earlier Chinese statements concerning the current crisis, the editorial avoids any firm Chinese commitment to action and indicates war can still be avoided if US leaders "come to their senses."

3. A Chinese commentary, broadcast on 7 August, makes it clear that Peiping does not want to have the problem handled in the UN. It asserts that the UN is not competent to deal with the issue.

4. Peiping's commentary strikes out angrily at the Soviet Union for agreeing to Security Council discussion of the US complaint and noted that the Russian delegate had failed to refute the "lie fabricated by the US" concerning DRV attacks on American naval ships.

5. Domestic demonstrations to stir up "popular" enthusiasm in Communist China were staged on 7 August. Frenzied anti-US propaganda campaigns inside Communist China are a standard technique whenever crisis situations involving the US develop anywhere in the world. Such demonstrations are intended as much for their impact outside Communist China as for their domestic effect.

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